

Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate Weekly Update

Issue ##273
10th June 2025



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Antivirals for Patients at High Risk of Complication from Covid-19

Since the end of May 2025 the National supplies of Paxlovid and Molnupiravir are no longer available. Therefore these now need to be purchased via the normal wholesale route under the National Arrangements for the Supply of Medicines (all stock pharmacies held until the end of May 2025 will now be expired and must be disposed of accordingly). As the assessments are undertaken remotely, the prescriptions we use for the service locally are issued via CoPPr.

Treatment with the antivirals needs to be initiated within the first five days of onset symptoms, meaning there is a time sensitivity for the patient in terms of presenting, being assessed and starting treatment.

NHS Grampian has decided to arrange for two pharmacies, Boots Garthdee and Boots Springfield, Elgin to hold two packs of each medication in stock to supplement the usual supply routes. Whilst a CoPPr prescription could come to any pharmacy requesting a supply be provided to a patient, we recognise that supplies will be delayed at weekends or that a patient may need to start their treatment immediately to be within the optimum time window. The availability of stock at the two pharmacies means there should be a route of almost guaranteed access for patients either via their normal community pharmacy if they can wait for a supply to be ordered or from one of the two Boots branches if they cannot (please disregard the information in attached letter regarding antivirals around Paxlovid- stock has now been replenished at Alliance- see below for more details).

We have chosen these two pharmacies based on location and opening hours. The level of stock and whether we need to expand the locations further. This will be kept under review based on whether circulating Covid levels and assessment rates change in the future, but we believe this arrangement is a suitable backup for normal access routes currently.

For details of endorsing, please see: [PCA\(P\)\(2025\)08 - Paxlovid Endorsing Guidance | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#).

Antiviral Stock Ordering

Important: If you are having difficulties getting Paxlovid in from Alliance (if showing unavailable on Alliance ordering system) **please phone** Alliance customer service to place order in the meantime and let us know if there are further difficulties.

Please ensure you are using the correct PIP code of **4352712** when you are placing their orders.

Pharmacies can also contact Pfizer on the number below if they need to:

Sales Order Management & Customer Excellence Team
Telephone 0345 608 8866
Freephone 0800 032 7907

Reminder: Out of Stock Medicines Procedure

Where there is a genuine medicine shortage and you cannot fulfil the requested prescription, the following actions should be taken:

- a) Check all available wholesalers
- b) Check supplies with all other pharmacies in your network
- c) Review the unavailable medication information / MSAN on SPS: [Medicines supply – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#).
- d) Prepare a list of available alternative(s) to share with the patient's practice (please share this with colleagues if e.g. pharmacy dispenser phoning practice to report the shortage)
- e) Contact the practice and provide this alternative information. If there is uncertainty about the indication for treatment and the patient isn't available to confirm this, please discuss with the prescribing clinician.

If you receive a repeat or serial prescription for a known unavailable product, please do not wait until the patient attends for collection before you action this.

Finally, practice teams are generally in touch with each other and with multiple pharmacies; they also have the ability to look at shortage lists and contact wholesalers. Misinforming practices that a supply is not available when in fact it is available but not at the price below the tariff is likely to lead to a complaint about failure to deliver contractual obligations. Likewise, patients are increasingly vocal about pharmacies failing to provide certain medicines when they are freely available from other pharmacies.

Antimicrobial Stewardship: Treatment Lengths for Commonly Prescribed Antibiotics

Please find the attached document which has been shared with Primary Care and Pharmacotherapy for awareness around the appropriate length of treatment when prescribing antibiotics.

For Action: Pharmacy Prescriber Training Survey

NHS Grampian now has a total of 114 Pharmacy First Prescribers working across the Health Board. We truly value the work you do and the support you provide to patients. We understand that many of you are keen to keep your prescribing skills up to date so you can feel confident in assessing and treating patients.

We're pleased to share that NHS Grampian has begun exploring the possibility of offering simulation training events, which will be free for all prescribers to attend. We have trained cascade trainers who have completed NES training courses and are well-equipped to deliver interactive sessions and workshops to support your prescribing competencies.

To help us plan these courses effectively, we kindly ask you to complete this survey by **Monday 30th June 2025**. If you have any additional comments or suggestions, please use the comments box at the end of the survey: [Pharmacy First Plus Simulation Pilot Training](#).

Aberdeen City Drug Harm Reduction and Community Support Fact Sheet

Please find the attached June 2025 Aberdeen City Alcohol and Drugs Partnership factsheet for awareness which includes a recent drug alert, naloxone awareness and available resources.

NHS Grampian Locum Pharmacist Register Annual Review

We are currently undertaking an annual review of the NHS Grampian Locum Pharmacist Register. If you wish to sign up or be removed from the Locum List, please [click here](#) to complete the short form.

Please also be reminded the NHS Grampian 2025-26 Locum Pack is available [here](#), which we encourage you share with all NHS Grampian locum pharmacists.

Smoking Cessation Update

Opening New PCR Files

You may remember that there were some updates to the PCR system last year. One of these changes was that you could open multiple files for the same patient to allow easy transfer between pharmacies. Unfortunately the National ISD system is not compatible with these changes and therefore we ask you all to defer back to the previous system. Advice is not to open a new PCR file for your patient until the following week (a Thursday must pass for National upload). Opening 2 files may result in missed payment.

Save the Date: Training Sessions

Palliative Care Network Evening Education Session	Wednesday 11 th June, 6pm – 7pm.	<p>Managing Diabetes at the End of Life With Dr Sarinah Hanna, Palliative Medicine – click here to register or via the attached flyer.</p> <p>As a reminder for palliative care pharmacies, proof of attendance to at least one event should be sent to: gram.pcctpharmacy@nhs.scot, to initiate the second contractor payment under this SLA.</p> <p>This event will not be recorded. If you cannot attend this session, we have been advised more opportunities will be made available later in the year.</p>
Health MOT Day for Minority Ethnic Communities	Thursday 12 th June 2025, 11am – 3pm. Drop in session at Aberdeen Arts Centre.	Find the attached flyer for more information.

Torry Men's Wellbeing Day	Thursday 12 th June 2025, 2pm – 7.30p. Drop in sessions at Tullos Circle, Torry, Aberdeen.	Find the attached flyer for more information.
Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland: Improve Stroke Recognition	Wednesday 25 th June, 10am – 10.30am.	Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland are running 30-minute education sessions in partnership with the Scottish Government, aiming to improve stroke recognition. Find the attached flyer for more information.

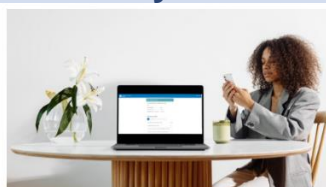
Community Pharmacy Scotland Round-Up



10/06/2025 • Scottish Government

PCA(P)(2025)14 - Extension to Serious Shortage Protocols for Estradot® (estradiol) patches

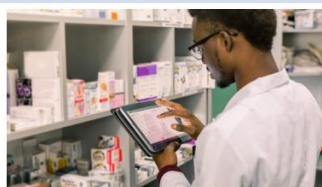
SSPs for Estradot® HRT patches extended to 10 Oct 2025. Community pharmacy contractors are advised to note the updated expiry date.



09/06/2025 • Graham Le Tissier

Medicines Care and Review (MCR) Ready Reckoner

This week's MCR Ready Reckoner has been updated and is now available to download or you can view it via the App.



05/06/2025 • Scottish Government

PCA(P)(2025)13 - Amendments to the Part 11 Discount Clawback Scale

This circular advises community pharmacy contractors on the amendments to the Drug Tariff Part 11 clawback scale.



05/06/2025 • Amanda Henderson

CPS Charity Golf Day Raises Over £8,700 for Held In Our Hearts

Community Pharmacy Scotland's 10th Annual Charity Golf Day was a swinging success, raising an incredible **£8,732** for our 2025 charity partner, **Held In Our Hearts**.

The Happy Place 😊

Huge Congratulations to Mia Hay and Louise Kelman from Rothes Pharmacy on completing their support staff course for pharmacy healthcare assistants. Well done!



We would like to continue this section as an opportunity for reward, recognition and good news stories of the teams who read this! Please submit any items for inclusion to:
gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot

All weekly updates are uploaded to the [CP Grampian website](#).

Remember to like our Facebook page for regular updates: [Community Pharmacy Grampian – NHSG](#)